GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that imported Genetically Modified (GM) food products are entering Indian supermarkets and food chains unchecked;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Director-General, Foreign Trade has taken any action to check the illegal entry of GM food products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a to d) As per the Foreign Trade Policy, the import of Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) and Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) for the purpose of
(i) Research & Development (R&D) ;
(ii) Food ;
(iii) Feed ;
(iv) Processing in Bulk and
(v) for Environment release will be governed by the provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1986 and Rules 1989. The import of any Food, Feed, raw or processed or any ingredient of food, food additives or any food product that contains GM material and is being used either for Industrial production, Environmental release, or field application will be allowed only with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). Institutes / Companies who wish to import GM material for R&D purposes will submit their proposal to the Review Committee for Genetic Modification (RCGM) under the Department of Bio-Technology. In case the Companies / Institutes use these Genetically Modified material for commercial purposes, approval of GEAC is also required. At the time of import, all consignments containing products, which have been subjected to Genetic Modification, will carry a declaration stating that the product is Genetically Modified. In case a consignment does not carry such a declaration and is later found to contain GM material, the importer is liable to penal action under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992.